



NEW YORK STATE SENATOR

Owen H. Johnson

Mary Anderson, Richard DiStefano and Robert DiStefano Honored At the 2011 Sixth Annual PAWS Gala

OWEN H. JOHNSON May 26, 2011

| ISSUE: **EDUCATION**



Senator Owen H. Johnson joined Partners Advancing West Islip Students (PAWS) in applauding three honorees at the 2011 Sixth Annual PAWS Gala. The event took place at The Venetian Yacht Club in Babylon on April 29, 2011.

Mary Anderson was the recipient of the 2011 Outstanding Educator of the Year Award. She is the Principal of the Manetuck Elementary School and this fall will celebrate her 40th anniversary with the West Islip School District.

Brothers Richard DiStefano and Robert DiStefano were presented with the 2011 Outstanding Community Members of the Year Award. The owners of West Islip Wines & Liquors were honored for their exceptional participation and contribution to the betterment of the community.

The Annual PAWS Gala was the foundation's biggest event and major fundraiser of the year. The evening included dancing, raffles and entertainment with over 250 guests attending.

Photograph, from top left to right: Honoree Robert DiStefano; PAWS Historian Richard Bocchieri; Board Of Education Vice President Annmarie LaRosa; PAWS Treasurer Mary Beth Jacaruso; Senator Owen H. Johnson; PAWS President Barbara McAteer; Board of Education President Steve Gellar; PAWS Vice President Jamie Winkler; and Honorees Mary Anderson and Richard DiStefano.